

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 and cancel claims 2, 6, and 9 without prejudice to continued examination of the remaining claims on their merits:

The status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A single layer air-laid absorbent pad comprising: from about 10 to about 50 wt. % hollow synthetic fiber, from about 40 to about 80 wt. % absorbent, and from about 3 to about 15 wt. % binder system ~~a binder system~~, wherein said binder system is a bicomponent fiber, and wherein said absorbent further comprises wood pulp fluff, and wherein said binder system, said hollow synthetic fiber, and said absorbent are bound together into a unitary structure.

2. Canceled.

3. (Previously Presented) The absorbent pad of claim 1, wherein said hollow synthetic fiber has a denier of between about 2 to about 18.

4. (Previously Presented) The absorbent pad of claim 1, wherein said hollow synthetic fiber is selected from the class of polyolefins, polyesters, polyamides, acrylics, as well as mixtures and copolymers thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) The absorbent pad of claim 4, wherein said polyester is polyethylene terephthalate.

6. Canceled.

7. (Previously Presented) The absorbent pad of claim 1, wherein suitable bicomponent fibers are selected from the class of polyethylene/polypropylene;

polyethylene/polyester; polypropylene/polyester; copolyester/polyethylene terephthalate; nylon 6/nylon 6,6; and nylon 6/polyethylene terephthalate.

8. (Previously Presented) The absorbent pad of claim 7, wherein said polyethylene/polyester is a grafted polyethylene/ polyethylene terephthalate.

9. Canceled.

10. (Previously Presented) The absorbent pad of claim 1, wherein said absorbent further comprises a natural absorbent, or a synthetic absorbent, or a mixture of these.

11. (Previously Presented) The absorbent pad of claim 10, wherein said natural absorbent is selected from the class of cotton, cotton linters, and regenerated cellulose fibers, or a mixture of these.

12. (Previously Presented) The absorbent pad of claim 10, wherein said synthetic absorbent is selected from the class of agar, pectin, guar gum, and synthetic hydrogel polymers.

13. (Previously Presented) The absorbent pad of claim 12, wherein said synthetic hydrogel polymers are selected from the class of carboxymethyl cellulose, alkali metal salts of polyacrylic acid, polyacrylamides, polyvinyl alcohol, ethylene maleic anhydride copolymers, polyvinyl ethers, hydroxypropyl cellulose, polyvinyl morpholinone, polymers and copolymers of vinyl sulfonic acid, polyacrylates, polyacrylamides, polyvinyl pyridine, and mixtures of these.

14. (Previously Presented) The air-laid absorbent pad of claim 1, wherein said composition comprises an absorbent core in fenestration drapes, dental bibs, eye pads, incontinent pads, sanitary napkins, wet wipes, and wound dressing pads.

15. (Withdrawn) A process of making a single layer air-laid web comprising: